

Fact Sheet: "The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act"



Families

Why Louisiana Needs Reform

Ranked 51st in overall quality care

Over 20% of Louisianans are uninsured

18% of Louisianans report not visiting a doctor due to high costs

Louisiana families pay about \$12,000 a year for health insurance premiums, or about 30% of their income.

Louisiana has the **highest** cancer rate in the country

Louisianans also pay an average of \$4,000 a year in out-of-pocket costs

Life Expectancy is 74 years – 49th in the country

More than half of all personal bankruptcies are due to medical expenses

One of the highest rates of heart disease in the country

By 2016, health insurance will cost families \$23,133, a 114% increase over 2006, which will consume 60% of family income.

How This Bill Helps

Insurance Industry Reforms that Save Families Money

Will cap what insurance companies can require families to pay in out-of-pocket expenses, such as co-pays and deductibles, prohibit lifetime limits on benefits, and restrict the use of annual limits.

Ensures free preventive services

Ending Insurance Company Discrimination

Ends discrimination for pre-existing conditions

Ends discrimination based on gender and limits variation based on age

Makes it illegal for insurance companies to drop your coverage if you get sick

More Affordable Choices

Levels the playing field for consumers through Health Insurance Exchanges and gives Louisianans more control over their health care choices, keeping insurers honest and driving down rising costs from private insurers.

Premium Relief

Health insurance exchanges will make coverage affordable and accessible. It will also provide sliding scale premium tax credits for families that cannot afford quality health insurance.



Business

Why Louisiana Needs Reform

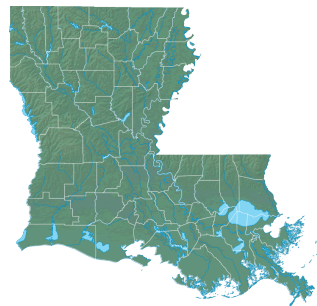
Louisiana's small businesses and self-employed entrepreneurs spent \$1.7 billion in healthcare premiums in 2008.

Louisiana businesses and families shoulder a hidden health tax of \$900 per year on premiums as a direct result of subsidizing the costs of the uninsured.

While small businesses make up 73% of Louisiana businesses, only 33% of them offered health coverage benefits in 2006.

In Louisiana, of the 64% of small businesses who do NOT provide insurance, 87% say they can't afford it.

In Louisiana, the top two health insurance companies dominate 77% percent of the small group insurance market.



How This Bill Helps

Improves affordability of health care for employers, by addressing the skyrocketing health care costs which negatively impacts small businesses and our economy

Security and Stability that Promotes Entrepreneurship

Ends discriminatory insurance practices of jacking up premiums by up to 200 percent because an employee got sick or older, or because the business hired a woman

Small Business Affordability Credits

Provides tax credits to small businesses to make employee coverage more affordable

More Quality, Affordable Options

New health insurance Exchanges will make coverage affordable and accessible for small businesses. These exchanges will reduce administrative costs for small businesses by enabling them to easily compare prices, benefits and quality of health plans. Allows regional exchanges, national plans and purchase of insurance across state lines which will encourage competition and increase choice in the small group market



Government

Why Louisiana Needs Reform

This year, the Louisiana economy will lose \$2-4 billion due to the shorter lives and poorer health of the uninsured

Nationally, the U.S. will spend **18% of the GDP** on health care this year

The United States spent approximately **\$2.2 trillion** on health care in 2007

Medicare will go bankrupt by 2017

Health care costs doubled from 1996 to 2006, and are projected to rise to 25% of GDP in 2025 and 49% in 2082

By 2025, Medicare and Medicaid will balloon to 7% of GDP

By 2019, an estimated \$141 billion will be spent on uncompensated care, which States partially subsidize



How This Bill Helps

Senate bill is completely paid for and reduces the federal deficit by \$130 billion over the next decade

Extends Medicare Solvency and Reducing Premiums Without Cutting Benefits

The Senate bill will not cut benefits covered by the Medicare program. Instead, it increases benefits and strengthens the program to ensure Medicare's sustainability for years to come.

Helping State Budgets Reduces Health Care Fraud

Reduce State Uncompensated Care

By covering more uninsured, the Senate bill will reduce this State spending.

Job Creation to Spur the Local Economy and Generate State Tax Revenues

Investments in primary care clinics and community health centers will create jobs for health care providers and additional staff, generating local economic activity.